

Appl. No. 09/163,993  
Response dated April 12, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2005

Listing of Claims:

1-238. (Canceled)

239. (Previously Presented) An on-line postage system for processing of user requests and obtaining postage indicia comprising:

a plurality of client systems configured to interface with a plurality of users, wherein each of said plurality of client systems is configured to send a postage request and to print postage indicia;

a server system in communication with said plurality of client systems and one or more postal service systems, wherein said server system is configured to receive said postage request from said plurality of client systems and to send postage indicia data to said plurality of client systems in response to said postage request; and

an administrator system software executing on one or more computers, wherein said administrator system software is in communication with said server system, said administrator system software comprising a statistical analysis report module configured to provide one or more reports about user transactions occurring at said server system.

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240. (Previously Presented) The on-line postage system of claim 239, wherein each of said plurality of users has an associated financial status, and wherein said administrator system software further comprises:

a user financial information module configured to facilitate reviewing and monitoring the financial status of said plurality of users.

241. (Previously Presented) The on-line postage system of claim 239, wherein said server system comprises a license database, and wherein said administrator system software further comprises:

a license database access module configured to facilitate access to said license database and review of, for each of said plurality of users, the status of a license issued by a postal service authority.

242. (Previously Presented) The on-line postage system of claim 239, wherein said server system provides information to said one or more postal service systems as one or more flat files, and wherein said administrator system software further comprises:

a flat file access module configured to facilitate review of information in said flat files.

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243. (Previously Presented) The on-line postage system of claim 239, wherein said administrator system software further comprises:

a system access security module configured to secure communication between said server system and said administrator system software.

244. (Previously Presented) The on-line postage system of claim 239, wherein each of said plurality of client systems and said server system comprises an internet access module configured to facilitate communication between said plurality of client systems and said server system over the internet.

245. (Previously Presented) The on-line postage system of claim 239, wherein said administrator system software and said server system each comprises an internet access module configured to facilitate communication between said administrator system software and said server system over the internet.

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246. (Previously Presented) An on-line postage system for processing of user requests and obtaining postage indicia comprising:

a plurality of client systems configured to interface with a plurality of users, each of said plurality of client systems configured to send a postage request and to print postage indicia;

a server system in communication with said plurality of client systems and one or more postal service systems, wherein said server system is configured to receive said postage request from said plurality of client systems and to send postage indicia data to said plurality of client systems;

wherein said server system comprises:

a database comprising stored account information of each of said plurality of users;

a user account interface module configured to respond to an account request received from a given client system by retrieving a portion of said stored account information that is associated with a respective user of said given client system and providing said portion to said given client system.

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247. (Previously Presented) An on-line postage system for processing of user requests and obtaining postage indicia comprising:

a plurality of client systems configured to interface with a plurality of users, each of said plurality of client systems configured to send a postage request and to print postage indicia;

a server system in communication with said plurality of client systems, wherein said server system is configured to receive said postage request from said plurality of client systems and to send postage indicia data to said plurality of client systems;

wherein said server system comprises:

a postal service interface module for interfacing with one or more postal service systems;

a statistical reports module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said statistical reports module configured to provide reports associated with usage of said on-line postage system by said plurality of users.

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248. (Previously Presented) The on-line postage system of claim 247, wherein said server system further comprises:

a flat files module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said flat files module configured to transform postage system data into flat files for transmission to said one or more postal service systems.

249. (Previously Presented) The on-line postage system of claim 247, wherein said server system further comprises:

a data update interface module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said data update interface module facilitating updating of postage rate information on said server system by said one or more postal service systems.

250. (Previously Presented) The on-line postage system of claim 247, wherein said server system further comprises:

a data update interface module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said data update interface module facilitating updating of zip code information on said server system by said one or more postal service systems.

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251. (Previously Presented) The on-line postage system of claim 247, wherein said server system further comprises:

a utility module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said utility module providing an interface with a user activity monitoring module.

252. (Previously Presented) The on-line postage system of claim 247, wherein said server system further comprises:

a utility module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said utility module providing an interface with an archiving module.

253. (Previously Presented) The on-line postage system of claim 247, wherein said server system further comprises:

a utility module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said utility module providing an interface with a report generating module configured to provide reports of transactions in said on-line postage system.

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254. (Previously Presented) The on-line postage system of claim 247, wherein said server system further comprises a financial interfaces module configured to facilitate a transaction between said server system and a financial system having a postal service account, said transaction comprising information associated with a transfer of funds from a user account to said postal service account.

255. (Previously Presented) The on-line postage system of claim 247, wherein said server system further comprises a server access security module configured to manage and restrict access to said server system.



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256. (Previously Presented) A method for providing an on-line postage system comprising:

receiving, at a server system, one or more postage requests from a plurality of client systems configured to interface with a plurality of users, each of said plurality of client systems configured to print postage indicia;

sending postage indicia data from said server system to one or more of said plurality of client systems in response to said one or more postage requests; and

in administrator system software executing on one or more computers, generating a report comprising information about one or more user transactions occurring at said server system, wherein said one or more user transactions comprise said one or more postage requests.

257. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 256, further comprising, in said administrator system software:

reviewing and monitoring the financial status of one or more of said plurality of users.

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258. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 256, further comprising, in said administrator system software:

reviewing the respective status of one or more licenses issued to said plurality of users by a postal service authority.

259. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 256, further comprising:

providing, in said server system, information to one or more postal service systems as one or more flat files; and

reviewing, in said administrator system software, information from said flat files.

260. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 256, further comprising:

providing secure communication between said server system and said administrator system software.

261. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 256, wherein receiving said postage request comprises communicating with one or more of said plurality of client systems over the internet.

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262. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 256, further comprising:

providing communication between said administrator system software and said server system over the internet.

263. (Previously Presented) A method for providing an on-line postage system comprising:

receiving, at a server system, a postage request from one of a plurality of client systems configured to interface with a plurality of users, wherein each of said plurality of client systems is configured to print postage indicia;

sending said postage indicia to said one of said plurality of client systems in response to said postage request;

receiving an account request from a given client system; and

responding to said account request by retrieving from a database in said server system a portion of stored account information that is associated with a respective user of said given client system; and

providing said portion to said given client.

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264. (Previously Presented) A method for providing an on-line postage system comprising:

receiving, at a server system, a postage request from one of a plurality of client systems configured to interface with a plurality of users, wherein each of said client systems is configured to print postage indicia;

sending said postage indicia to said one of said plurality of client systems in response to said postage request;

providing an interface to one or more postal service systems; and

providing one or more reports associated with usage of said on-line postage system by said plurality of users, said reports accessible by said one or more postal service systems through said interface.

265. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 264, further comprising:

transforming postage system data into flat files for transmission to said one or more postal service systems.

266. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 264, further comprising:

said one or more postal service systems updating postage rate information on said server system.

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267. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 264, further comprising:  
  
said one or more postal service systems updating zip code information on said server system.

268. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 264, further comprising:  
  
providing said one or more postal service systems with an interface to a user activity monitoring module on said server system.

269. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 264, further comprising:  
  
providing said one or more postal service systems with an interface to an archiving module on the server system.

270. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 264, further comprising:  
  
providing said one or more postal service systems with an interface to a report generating module on said server system, said report generating module configured to provide reports of transactions in said on-line postage system.

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271. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 264, further comprising said server system exchanging information with a financial system having a postal service account, said information associated with a transfer of funds from a user account to said postal service account.

272. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 264, further comprising:  
managing and restricting access to said server system by said one or more postal service systems.